

SIKKIM**GOVERNMENT****GAZETTE****EXTRAORDINARY
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**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY-CUM- PRINCIPAL CCF
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
FOREST SECRETARIAT
DEORALI – 737102, GANGTOK**

No. 15/GoS/FEWMD/Pr.SECY-PCCF**Date: 16/04/2019****NOTIFICATION**

Whereas, the use of recorded bird calls/song playback currently deployed by birdwatchers, bird tour operators and photographers to decoy or lure birds out into the open for a photo opportunity, as a form of baiting and a punishable offence under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972;

And whereas, this intrusive menace makes birds vulnerable to predation while disrupting breeding behavior;

And whereas, the breeding and migration seasons of birds coincide with the two main tourism seasons of the state with high tourist visitation in our Forest and Wildlife Protected Areas;

And whereas, Sikkim while being rich in bird diversity is already in a Biodiversity Hotspot, where, some of our rarest and endangered species are found;

Now therefore, in order to conserve Sikkim's biodiversity while ensuring long-term sustainable ecotourism, the State Government is hereby, pleased to ban the use of recorded call/song playback in and around Sikkim's Wildlife Protected Areas and in Wildlife working circle of Territorial divisions, except for scientific research for specified areas and times under requisite permit issued by the office of the Chief Wildlife Warden.

Further, all Forest and Wildlife Protected Areas Managers and field staff shall keep strict vigil in their jurisdiction to ensure ban on the recorded bird calls and songs by the bird tourism operators, bird watchers and photographers without required permission of the Chief Wildlife Warden in writing.

By order and in the name of the Governor.

**M.L. Srivastava, IFS
Principal Secretary-cum PCCF
Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management Department**